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09/692,025	10/19/2000	Carlo Neri	GL-21 (GL-00-5)	5441

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BAKER & DANIELS LLP
300 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET
SUITE 2700
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

EXAMINER

ANTHONY, JOSEPH DAVID

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1714

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/692,025 10/19/2000 NERI et al.

EXAMINER

JOSEPH ANTHONY

ART UNIT	PAPER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Attached is a corrected version of the Examiner Answer which was made in response to the Board of Patent Appeals And Interferences order returning the undocketed Appeal to the Examiner, mailed 11/25/2005, because the Examiner Answer was deemed to be non-complaint with the new rules set forth in 37 CFR 41.37 effective September 13, 2004. The present corrected version of the Examiner Answer neither changes nor adds any new grounds of rejection nor does it set forth any new arguments.

Joseph D. Anthony
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1714



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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/692,025
Filing Date: October 19, 2000
Appellant(s): NERI ET AL.

MAILED
MAY 16 2006
GROUP 1700

Thomas A. Ladd
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

The present corrected version of the Examiner Answer is made in response to the ***Board of Patent Appeals And Interferences*** order returning the undocketed Appeal to the Examiner, mailed 11/25/2005, because the Examiner Answer was

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deemed to be non-complaint with the new rules set forth in 37 CFR 41.37 effective September 13, 2004. The present corrected version of the Examiner Answer neither changes nor adds any new grounds of rejection nor does it set forth any new arguments.

This Examiner Answer is also in response to the appeal brief filed 02/23/2005 appealing from the Office Action mailed 06/14/04.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is incorrect. A correct statement of the status of the claims is as follows:

This appeal involves claims 1-6, 8-14, and 18-21.

Claims 15-17 are withdrawn from consideration as not directed to the elected invention.

Claim 7 has been canceled.

Claims 22-24 have not been examined since they were first filed in the after-final amendment filed 12/21/2004 (OIPE Stamp date) which was not entered and will not be entered.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is incorrect. While it is true that the after final amendment filed on 12/21/2004 (OIPE stamp date) had not been subject to an office action at the time applicant filed the Appeal Brief, said after-final amendment has been considered by the examiner as of the writing of this Examiner's Answer and will not be entered because it does not advanced the prosecution of the application (all of the claims under final rejection were not amended by applicant in the after-final amendment) but rather the rejections were traversed by applicant's representative. The after-final amendment did add new claims 22-24 without canceling a correspond number of old claims and as such the after-final amendment was not entered and will not be entered.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is substantially correct. The changes are as follows:

A) the correct date of the office Action referred to by appellant on page 2 of the Appeal Brief third line from the bottom of the page should be March 25, 2004., and

B) The prior-art rejections over claims 1-6, 8-14 and 18-21 in the present appeal are limited to the following U.S. Patents:

5,455,288	Needham	10-1995
5,888,254	Gang et al.	3-1999
4,729,796	Deubel et al.	3-1988
5,437,688	Yamauchi et al.	8-1995

All other prior-art rejections made over other U.S. Patents, as listed in Applicant's Appeal Brief filed 02/23/05, have been dropped by the examiner for this pending Appeal.

(7) Claims Appendix

A substantially correct copy of appealed claims 1-6, 8-14, and 18-21 appears on pages 16-21 of the Appendix to the appellant's brief. However errors in said Appendix have been noticed by Appellant who has subsequently filed a Reply Brief on 08/10/05 which contains the corrected copy of the claims under Appeal.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

5,455,288	Needham	10-1995
5,888,254	Gang et al.	3-1999
4,729,796	Deubel et al.	3-1988
5,437,688	Yamauchi et al.	8-1995

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant's amendment to claim 1 inserting the limitation of "said mixtures being devoid of said organic polymers" is deemed to be new matter. Applicant's assertion that the specification on page 3, lines 11-21, enables such a sweeping negative limitation is not accepted by the examiner.

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The said specification section is silent on the presence of a polymer in applicants' invention. This silence is not to be expanded to positively exclude such polymers.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Please note that applicants' elected claims are **product claims** written in the format of product-by-process. As is well established by the courts, the process in product-by-process is given no patentable weight unless there is some showing of criticality that the process results in a product that is somehow different from a product produced by a different process. Applicant's originally filed specification and claims have set forth absolutely no showing of any distinctiveness, criticality, superior or unobvious results that may or may not occur to applicants' claimed product when it is made by applicants' process. As such, for the following prior-art rejections, applicants' claims are deemed to be anticipated over the granules produced by the applied prior-art references even if their process of making the granules differs from applicants' process

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of making the granules. The examiner also wants to make the point that the particulate resin component as set forth in Example 1 of the following applied Needham patent is not excluded by applicants' new matter claim language of: "said mixtures being devoid of **said** organic polymers", [emphasis added]. For more details on this issue regarding the Needham patent, see the examiner's comments in the below **"Response to Argument"** section of the present Examiner's Answer.

Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Needham U.S. Patent Number 5,455,288 or Gang et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,888,254 or Deubel et al. U.S. Patent Number 4,729,796 or Yamauchi et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,437,688.

Needham teaches dustless color concentrate granules that comprise a dye/pigment and a stabilizer. Applicants' claims are anticipated over Example 1 which teaches the production of dustless color concentrate granules that comprise: 1) a pigment mixture comprising carbon black, titanium dioxide, diazo yellow, and phthalocyanine green) (reads at least on applicant's organic, inorganic and dye component of claim 1); 2) a particulate resin which is HDPE (i.e. high density polyethylene); 3) a binder (reads at least on applicants' rheological additive of claim 5; 4) zinc stearate (reads at least on applicant's lubricant component of claim 5), 5) a UV stabilizer, which is Cyanamid UV-3346 (reads at least on applicants' stabilizer component of claim 1); and 6) an antioxidant which is a mixture of Irganox 1076 and Irgafos 168 (also reads at least on applicants' stabilizer component of claim 1) .

Gang et al teach leuco vat-dye preparations in granular form. Applicant's claims are deemed to be anticipated over the examples, such as example 8 which teaches forming granules which comprise in part: 1) leucoindiago (reads at least on applicants' claimed dye of claim 1); 2) sodium hydroxide (reads on applicants' claimed stabilizer component of claim 1, and also on the rheological additive or catalyst of claim 5); and 3) ascorbic acid (also reads at least on applicant's stabilizer component of claim 1).

Deubel et al teach a process for the preparing pigment granules from aqueous suspension of pigment and alkaline solution of resin. Applicant's claims are anticipated over the examples that comprise a pigment and an antioxidant. Example 1 teaches making a granular product which comprises in part: 1) Pigment Yellow 12 (reads on applicants' pigment component of claim 1); 2) sodium hydroxide (reads on applicants' claimed stabilizer component of claim 1, and also on the rheological additive or catalyst of claim 5); and as an antioxidant pentaerythrityl-tetrakis[3-(3,5-ditert-butyl-4-hydroxy-phenyl)-propionate] (reads at least on applicants' stabilizer component of claim 1).

Yamauchi et al teach granular reactive dye compositions and method of making thereof. Applicant's claims are anticipated over all the examples that comprise a dye and an antioxidant. Example 1 teaches making granules that comprise in part: 1) a dye of formula (a) (reads at least on applicants' dye of claim 1); 2) sodium primary phosphate (reads at least on applicants' stabilizer component of claim 1); and 3) anhydrous sodium sulfate (reads at least on applicants' claimed rheological agent of claim 5).

(10) Response to Argument

In response to applicants' traversal, on page 3-5 of the Appeal Brief, of the examiner made "new matter" rejection made under 35 USC 112 first paragraph, the examiner makes the following comments.

To begin with, it must be clearly pointed out that applicants' amendment to claim 1 adding the limitation of: "said mixtures being devoid of said organic polymers" does NOT exclude all polymers or polymeric binders from the scope of claim 1. The said claim limitation only excludes from the granules a polymer that is of the same species as that which the granules are to be added to for stabilization and coloring purposes. For example, if the stabilizer granules are to be added to a low density polyethylene resin, the additives that are mixed together to make up the granules themselves can encompass polymeric additives such as a high density polyethylene or polypropylene resin or polyamide or PVC or polyacrylates etc.. This claim interpretation of the examiner's is support by the fact that many of the components claimed in applicant's dependent claims read on polymers, such as the fillers and reinforcing agents (e.g. binders) of claim 2, and the lubricants, emulsifying agent, and the rheological additives of claim 5. The examiner holds that if applicants had really originally intended to positively exclude polymers from their additive mixture they would have made an explicit statement to such in the specification, and also would not have written the specification and claims as they did to read directly on various additives that can be polymeric in nature, such as fillers and reinforcing agents of claim 2, and the lubricants, emulsifying agent, and rheological additives.

Applicant argues that their specification at page 2, lines 11-18 and at page 3, lines 17-19 supports applicants' position that there is enablement for applicants' amendment to claim 1 inserting the limitation of: "said mixtures being devoid of said organic polymers" since applicants' invention does not require the polymer used in a "masterbatch". Applicants asks a question on page 5 of the Appeal Brief of: "How can it be that the objected to language is recognized and described as a masterbatch in the Final Office Action but not supported by the language of the specification at p.2, lines 14-18 which excludes a "masterbach"?"

First off, the examiner is required in the course of the examination process to give the broadest reasonable interpretation to the scope of applicant's submitted amendments. The fact that the examiner has recognized that applicants' amendment was trying to exclude the polymer that is found in a masterbatch, does not mean that applicant's originally filed disclosure has an enabling support for such. That is precisely why the examiner made a "new matter" rejection over the said amendment.

Secondly, page 2, lines 11-18 does not provide support for applicants' said amendment because this section of applicants' specification is merely describing a "masterbach" formulation of the prior-art, and is thus not describing the metes and bounds of the scope of applicants enabled invention.

Thirdly, applicants' disclosure at page 3, lines 17-19, which does describe applicants' invention, also does not provide enabling support for applicants' sweeping negative limitation of "said mixtures being devoid of said organic polymers" as set forth in claim 1. Page 3, lines 17-19 of applicants' specification, merely discloses that

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applicants' extrusion process for forming the granules, can be performed but does not have to be performed, at a temperature lower than the temperature at which additives are processed in an extrusion process of masterbatches of the prior-art. Somehow from said disclosure of applicants' specification, applicants argue that there is an enabling disclosure for applicants' amendment to claim 1 inserting the sweeping negative limitation of: "said mixtures being devoid of said organic polymers". The examiner rejects applicants' argument. It must be clearly pointed out that page 3, lines 17-19 of applicants specification as well as applicants' claim 1, **do not in any way limit the upper temperature range** of applicants' extrusion process that may somehow necessitate and thus provide enablement for applicants' position that the mixtures used to make their granules must be free of the polymers used in masterbatches. In other words, applicants' extrusion process, as discloses on page 3, lines 17-19, directly encompasses the higher temperatures used in the extrusion processes used in the masterbatches of the some prior-art references and thus **does not necessitate** the positive elimination of the polymers used in the masterbatches of the prior-art.

In response to applicants' traversal of the prior-art rejections, in the Appeal Brief, the examiner makes the following comments. Please note that applicants' elected claims are **product claims** written in the format of product-by-process. As is well established by the courts, the process in product-by-process is given no patentable weight unless there is some showing of criticality that the process results in a product that is somehow different from a product produced by a different process. Applicant's originally filed specification and claims have set forth absolutely no showing of any

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distinctiveness, criticality, superior or unobvious results that may or may not occur to applicants' claimed product when it is made by applicants' process. As such, the above prior-art rejections, are deemed to be proper in that they all individually teach the production of granules that comprise every component claimed by applicants even if their process of making the granules themselves differs from applicants' process of making the granules.

The examiner wants to make the point that the particulate resin component as set forth in Example 1 of the applied Needham patent is not excluded by applicants' new matter claim language of: "said mixtures being devoid of **said** organic polymers", [emphasis added], because said limitation only excludes from the granules a polymer that is of the same polymeric species as that which the granules are to be added to for stabilization and coloring purposes. This claim interpretation of the examiner's is support by the fact that many of the components claimed in applicant's dependent claims read on polymers, such as the fillers and reinforcing agents (e.g. binders) of claim 2, and the lubricants, emulsifying agent, and the rheological additives of claim 5. The Needham disclosure directly encompasses the addition of the produced colored dustless granules to another polymer that is to be stabilized and colored that is distinct from the polymer used to make the granules themselves, see column 2, line 66 to column 3, lines 12. Also see Example 2, wherein the produced colored concentrate granules that comprise HDPE (i.e. high density polyethylene) is added at a ratio of 50:1 to polyethylene, which is a distinct polymer with recognized distinct properties from that of HDPE.

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Finally, the stabilized and colored granules produced by the applied prior-art references directly meet one of the primary goals of applicants' invention which is to solve the problem of dispersal into the air of polymer additives in powder form, see page 1, line 22 to page 2, line 2 of applicants' specification.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph D. Anthony

Conferees:

Vasu Jagannathan



